

Translated by
Defense Language Branch

AN INCIDENT OF SHOOTING HIRANUMA, A
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

About 8:10 a.m. on 14 August, Choku NISHIYAMA, then 33 years old, a Shintō priest, (a member of MAKOTOMUSUBI-KAI, meaning faith-bound society), of Nakawa-mura, Maniwa-gun, OKAYAMA Prefecture, visited at the private residence of HIRANUMA, a minister without portfolio, at 149 Iechōme, Nishi-Ōkubo, Yodobashi-ku, TOKYO. While talking with the Minister in the waiting room, NISHIYAMA shot at the Minister with a revolver which he carried with him hurting HIRANUMA in the neck and other parts. The assaulter, after having been arrested near by the spot by men guarding the residence, is now under a strict investigation at the Metropolitan Police Headquarters. The information gathered so far is as follows:

- (1) The career of Choku NISHIYAMA and the motive of his taking the action.

Assaulter:

Choku NISHIYAMA, age-33

A Shintō priest (member of Makotomusubi-kai or faith-bound society) 1938 Ōaza Shimowa, Nakawa-mura, Maniwa-gun, OKAYAMA Prefecture.

(a) Career.

After having finished the upper grade of the Nakawa-mura Elementary School (at his permanent domicile), NISHIYAMA studied at the Kyōto Institute for the Study of Japanese Classical Literature (Kyōto

Kokugaku-in) for a year's period somewhere about the 15th year of Taishō (1926). In the 3rd year of Shōwa (1928) he passed a qualification test for Shintō priesthood authorized by the OKAYAMA Prefecture, and in the 5th year (1930) served as a priest at the HACHIMAN Shrine, Nishikochi, Ochiai-machi, a town neighboring his permanent domicile, for about a year. Then NISHIYAMA became the leader of the youngmen's association at Nakawa-mura, his own village, and later in December in the 9th year (1934) he became a priest at the NAKAWA Shrine; still later in the 13th year (1938) he served as a temporary priest at the TOKUMORI Shrine, a prefectural shrine in TSUYAMA City, for about a year. During these years, NISHIYAMA became interested in a reform movement from about the 7th year (1932), he actually participated in such local movements as the Shimbukai, the Inochi-kai, the Junkyō and the Kichibi royalistic movements. Between about March and July in the 15th year (1940) NISHIYAMA received training at "the Makotomusubi Dōjō" (a faith-bound school) in Aso-machi, Ibaraki prefecture. After completing such a long period of training he returned to his native village where he organized the Nakawa branch society of Makotomusubi-kai in November, and became its central figure.

(b) The motive of his taking the action.

The assaulter has been participating in the so-called reform movement since about the 7th year of Shōwa (1932). Especially since he had participated in the "Kinnō-Makotomusubi" movement (meaning royalistic faith-bound), NISHIYAMA became much influenced by the "Makotomusubi, Ishinkōron" (meaning Restoration public opinion), an organ magazine

of highly educative nature in the movement, and also by lecture meetings held in both OKAYAMA and IBARAGI Prefectures. Consequently he became so much concerned about the present condition in the Empire of Japan that he decided to expel the pro-Anglo-American faction which was, to his mind, trying to maintain the status quo and was a real scourge to the present situation. Above all, NISHIYAMA spotted Minister HIRANUMA, as the leader of that faction, with a conviction that to expel the Minister, who was a progenitor of his native country, was a mission given to him, a native of OKAYAMA Prefecture. Meanwhile, having come up to TOKYO about 17 July, NISHIYAMA heard, at the main office of Makotomusubikai at 2 Ichōme, Atago-machi, Shiba-ku, Tokyo, the process of the resignation of the 2nd KONOE Cabinet enabled and of the formation of the 3rd KONOE Cabinet. In the Ministerial change, in spite of the resignation of Foreign Minister MATSUOKA and others who had been regarded as the pro-Axis faction, Baron HIRANUMA remained as a minister without portfolio. This turn of things was, to the assaulter unbearable and unpermissible -- so much so that it appears that NISHIYAMA thereupon decided to make up his mind to do such a commitment as this, it appears.

(2) Planning for the assault.

(a) Movements of NISHIYAMA before he came to TOKYO for the decisive action.

Choku NISHIYAMA attended the "Makotomusubi Misogi Koshūkai (meaning faith-bound purification lectures), held in OKAYAMA City on

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1 June of this year, and received training from Jirō AKUTAGAWA, an executive of the central office, who came to OKAYAMA. On the same day, NISHIYAMA came to TOKYO with his comrade, Ryōji OKADA, a teacher of a primary school. On the following day, he heard the seditious case for YUASA, the former Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal, held at the Tokyo Criminal Local Court. Then NISHIYAMA visited the central office of Makotomusubi-kai and also called on Shun KATAOKA, and afterward went to the "Kasumigaura Ryō", a residential hostel, Asō-machi, IBARAGE Prefecture. While he was staying at the hostel, on the 19th NISHIYAMA attended the opening meeting of a Makotomusubi-kai held in CHIBA Prefecture; he returned to his native village on the same day. In the following month, when another Misogi Kōshūkai was held for four days starting from 12 July at Hassoku-mura, a neighbouring village, with Sai MATSUNAGA of the Society for Japanism as leader, NISHIYAMA^{p.4} attended the training course. On the 16th, being accompanied by MATSUNAGA, NISHIYAMA came to TOKYO, and heard the developments of the organization of the 3rd KONOYE Cabinet at the central office of Makotomusubi-kai. On the 19th he visited the Kasumigaura hostel again together with Kenichirō HOMMA, Jirō AKUTAGAWA and others to attend a mass meeting. On the 20th NISHIYAMA held a carousal in a certain "café" in Asō-machi together with Shun KATAOKA, Hyakusoku OKUTO, and a few other members of the Makotomusubi-kai in IBARAGI, Prefecture; he returned to Tokyo on the following day with KATAOKA. En route to Tokyo, however, NISHIYAMA appeared to have consulted with KATAOKA in the train about an assassination plan of Minister HIRANUMA and

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also about the clothes to wear on the day of action and the funds. On the 21st he received 100 yen from KATAOKA through Takeshi NAKAMURA, and returned to his native home once on the 22nd.

Thus, between 23 July and 2 August NISHIYAMA had frequent conversations with his comrades at his home, and secretly prepared for the assault. To mention a few outstanding movements of NISHIYAMA during this period, on 27 July he went to the Okayama Station with his comrades, Nentai IRISAWA and Ryoji OKADA, to meet Takeshi NAKAMURA of the central office who was passing through that station on his way to attend a discussion meeting to be held at Maeshima, KAGAWA Prefecture, from MATSUE City, Shimane Prefecture; and rode in the same train as far as the Uno Station, and had a confidential talk with NAKAMURA in the train. On the morning of 2 August he called on Seiju YODOGAWA, a lawyer of TSUYAMA City and President of the HIRANUMA KAI (meaning the HIRANUMA society), and received from YODOGAWA a letter of introduction to HAYAMIZU, the secretary of Minister HIRANUMA's, requesting his going to Tokyo to present to the Minister a phylactery in which prayers for his good health were offered and to ask him to p.5 rightist on a banner the name of the Kofu-kai (a rightist organization) which had just been organized. At 6:39 p.m. on the same day NISHIYAMA left the Tsuyama Station, being sent off by his comrade, Saburō DOI.

(b) An evidence of mustering men of the same mind.

Previously, NISHIYAMA had confided with Saburō DOI, Mamoru MIKAN, Nentai IRISAWA and other members of the Makotomusubi-kai in OKAYAMA Prefecture, his intention of assassinating men in the upper stratum

who were regarded as pro-Anglo-Americans and upholders of the status quo; and he promised the participation of his comrades. At first NISHIYAMA did not have any particular person in mind, but he spotted Minister HIRANUMA as the primary victim on the ground that his remaining in office as a minister without portfolio, after the July political change, meant an enlargement of his influence. He made up his mind to take charge of HIRANUMA by himself. He had in mind, then, to have IRISAWA and KAMI take charge of two or three pro-Anglo-Americans in the Cabinet. However, before this matter had been definitely decided, NISHIYAMA left for TOKYO alone.

Meanwhile, it is a fact that NISHIYAMA excluded Saburō DOI because the latter was reluctant to take part in the scheme when asked by NISHIYAMA.

(c) The course of securing the arms.

On the occasion of his return to his home from his attendance of a mass meeting of the Makotomusubi-kai, held at Asō-machi, IBARAGI Prefecture on 21 July, NISHIYAMA consulted with Takashi NAKAMURA on what arms he should select for the assault -- revolvers or daggers. At the same time, thinking that it would be difficult to obtain a revolver, NISHIYAMA bought a dagger at KIKUhide, a hardware store, Ginza, Kyōbashi-ku on the same day. And when he came back to his native place, he had Saburō DOI, a sword furbisher and comrade, sharpen the dagger for practical use. Also NISHIYAMA called on Noboru TOMOSAWA, the former branch chief of the Meirin-kai, OKAYAMA City, with whom he was already acquainted, and consulted with him in vain to obtain

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a revolver. Therefore, he came to Tokyo carrying only the dagger with him. On 6 August he asked Takeshi NAKAMURA to obtain a pistol which he received on the 9th at NAKAMURA's home. Later in the same day, he called on Shun KATOKI, and asked him to take custody of the said revolver. On the 12th NISHIYAMA received the revolver and the clothing (which he wore at the time of the assault), while he gave the dagger and the Kokumin-Fuku (Japanese civilian uniform) to Hakuji FUKUDA, a clerk at the central office.

Previously, NISHIYAMA stated that the source of the arm (revolver) was that he had brought it back with him without permission from the Headquarters of the CHŌ Army, when he was returning home from Manchuria after declining to be placed under the command of Junnosuke DATE, known under the name of Sōen CHŌ of Manchuria, soon after the outbreak of the China Incident in the 12th year of Showa (1937). However, as he confessed later, it became more and more clearer that he received the pistol from NAKAMURA after having come to Tokyo at that time. Incidentally the revolver used for the assault was a small six-chambered automatic revolver, Duan(?) made in Spain, numbered.

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(d) The movement of NISHIYAMA after coming to Tokyo to commit the assault.

Choku NISHIYAMA, clad in a Kokumin Fuku, departed from the Tsuyama Station on 2 August, and arrived in Tokyo on the 3rd. He stayed overnight at his sister's (Yuki AKAJIMA) house, 27 3-chōme, Higashi Kamata, Kamata-ku, and on the following day, the 4th, paid a visit to the central office of the Makoto-rusubi-kai, where he stayed for several days. He passed his time, now attending a gathering of the Nanshinha (a southward

advance movement faction) at KAMIDA's (Jisaku) together with Takeshi NAKAMURA and Michiharu Hishi (on the 7th), and now spending his time on meetings with Shun KATAOKA, Takeshi NAKAMURA and others. On the 12th of the same month, NISHIYAMA made a telephone call to HAYAMIZU, Minister HIRANUMA's secretary, asking him to arrange for an interview with the Minister. Upon receiving an answer from the secretary to come to the Minister's residence about 3:00 p.m. on that day, NISHIYAMA paid his visit there at the appointed time, wearing the kimono which he had received previously from KATAOKA. At the Minister's residence, however, he was told to come back again at 8:00 a.m. on the 14th, because of guests already there before him; so he returned. In the evening of the following day (the 13th), NISHIYAMA moved from the central office of the Makotomusubi-kai to Chōyōkan (a hotel), 1 Kotohira-chō, Shiba-ku, where he stayed overnight.

(c) The circumstance on the day of the assault.

On the day of the assault, NISHIYAMA got up about 6:00 a.m. dressed himself in a kimono, concealed the prepared revolver in the pocket of the inner skirt of the kimono, and calmly carrying a colored paper left Toranomon after 7:00 a.m. by subway. (This pocket had been specially p.8 patched by KATAOKA's wife by the request of NISHIYAMA). He transferred to the government line at Shibashi, and got off at Shinjuku. Then he reached the residence of HIRANUMA on foot about a little after 8:00 a.m. NISHIYAMA met the Minister pretending to request him to do some writing; and while talking in the drawing room, he shot HIRANUMA with the revolver (six chambered) concealed underneath the colored paper.

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which he carried with him. He was arrested by the guards (of the Metropolitan Police Board) nearby the scene of action.

(3) Persons under examination for the purpose of investigating this case.

(a) The Metropolitan Police Board.

Officials at the central office of the Makotomusubi-kai:

Tatsuo AMANO
Shun KATAOKA
Takeshi NAKAMURA
Jirō AKUTAGAWA
Ryōkai MATSUDA
Michiharu NISHIYAMA

Officials at the local office (of Asō area in IBARAGI Prefecture) of the Makotomusubi-kai.

Sokuhyaku OKUIX
Masao KONUMA

(b) OKAYAMA Prefecture.

Local Makotomusubi-kai members who look after the general affairs for the society.

Sword polisher, Saburō DOI Clerk at the village office
Clerk at the village office,
Maroru MIKAN
Manori MIKAN
Nentai IRISAWA

Teacher of a primary school,

physician Ryōji OKADA
Toshiya NISHIMURA

SHōYŪ sauce dealer,

Tateichirō SHIMIZU

No regular occupation, Rikichi YAMAGUCHI

Merchant, Tatsumi ANDō

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Physician, Naofumi TERA0

Assistant village-master,

Barber, Hiroshi NIWAKA
Katsuji OZAKI

Convenient cooking store dealer

Shintō priest, Ryūgo AOKAGE
Tatsumi NOGUCHI

Former OKAYAMA branch head of the Meirin-kai; Physician, Noboru TOMOSAWA
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Local Makotomushiki-kai member of the KAGAWA Prefecture, who look after
general affairs of the society.

Shintō priest, Shinren MIYAKE

(c) Those connected with this case who are suspected most up to
the present time.

Mamoru MIKAN
Nentai IIRISAWA
Saburō DOI
Takeshi NAKAMURA
Shun KATAOKA
Tatsuo AMANO

(4) Condition of injury of Minister HIRANUMA.

There are about nine openings, which appear to have been caused by
bulletets of the revolver, on the left side of his face, in the right side
of his neck, and in the left breast. There is a abrasion on the part
equivalent to a joint of the right side second ribs and costal cartilage.
There are also bullet wounds, one of each, in the central part of the rear
tongue and in the right side of the tongue respectively. In the root of
the right canine tooth, appears to be a bullet wound. The victim is
progressing favourably.

(Note by translator: The original document is incomplete.)

平沼國務相狙撃事件の概要

八月十四日午前八時十分頃東京市淀橋區西大塚保一ノ一四九、平沼國務大臣私邸を訪問せる岡山縣眞庭郡中和村「まことむすび會々員」神職西山直當三十三年は同邸應接間に於て平沼國務相と對談中所持せる拳銃を以て大臣を狙撃し、頸部其の他に負傷を與へたるを現場附近に於て同邸警戒員により檢舉せられ、目下引續き警視廳に於て取調中なるが判明せる狀況次の如し、

(一) 西山直の経歴及蹶起の動機

本人 岡山縣眞庭郡中和村大字下和一九三八

「まことむすび會員」神職 西山

直當三十三

1

(二) 経歴

本籍地中和村小學校高等科卒業後、大正十五年頃京都皇典講究所（京都國學院）に約一年勉學、昭和三年岡山縣社掌試験に合格昭和五年隣町たる同郡落合町西河内八幡神社々掌として約一年奉仕し、其後自村なる中和村青年團長となり昭和九年十二月村社中和神社々掌、同十三年津山市縣社德守神社臨時社掌として約一ケ年奉仕す。此の間に於て昭和七年頃より革新運動に興味を持ち「神武會、命會、純協、吉備勤皇運動等の地方運動に参加し、昭和十五年三月頃より同年七月に至る間、茨城縣麻生町「まことむすび道場」に於て長期

訓練を受け歸郷するや、同年十一月「まことむすび中和村支部」を
 結成し中心指導者となれり。

(四)

蹶起の動機

本名は昭和七年以來所謂革新運動に参加し、殊に二、三年前より
 「勤皇まことむすび」運動に参加するに及び、機關紙「まことむす
 び、維新公論」を通じての啓蒙並に岡山縣下に於ける本部員の講演、
 茨城縣下に於ける講演會等により、極度に皇國日本の現状を憂ひ之
 れが痛とも云ふべき親英米派的現状維持派の排撃にありと斷じ、然
 かもその巨頭たるは平沼國務大臣なりと爲し、同大臣は郷里の先輩
 にして之を打倒するは岡山縣人に與へられたる使命なりとの信念を
 抱持しつゝありたる處、七月十七日頃上京東京市芝區愛宕町一ノ二
 「まことむすび中央事務局」に於て近衛第二次内閣總辭職、第三次
 近衛内閣成立の經過を聴取するや、輻軸派と自せらるゝ松岡外相等
 は辭任したるに拘らず、平沼男が國務大臣として殘留せるが如きは
 全く許す可からざる存在なりとして茲に決意を固め、今回の犯行を
 敢てするに至りたるものゝ如し

(三)

蹶起計畫

(イ)

決行上京前の動靜

西山直は本年六月一日岡山市に於て開催の「まことむすび祝辭習

會」に出席し、本部より來岡の中央事務局幹部芥川治郎の指導を享
け、同日同志國民學校訓導岡田良治と共に上京し、翌二日東京刑事
地方裁判所に於ける湯淺前内大臣に對する不穩事件を傍聽して、中
央事務局及片岡駿等を訪問後、茨城縣下麻生町霞ヶ浦寮に赴き、同
寮に滞在中茨城縣まことむすび會幹部小沼正禧等と共に千葉縣下ま
ことむすび會結成式に出席し同十九日歸郷したり。次で七月十二日
より四日間日本主義研究所松永材を中心としたる隣村八束村に於け
る「禊禱習會」に出席し、同十六日松永材に隨伴上京「まことむす
び中央事務局」に於て第三次近衛内閣成立の經過を聴取し、同十九
日本間憲一郎、芥川治郎等と共に再び霞ヶ浦寮を訪問、動員大會に
出席し、同二十日麻生町某カフェーに於て西山直を中心に片岡駿、
奥戸足百外茨城縣まことむすび會員數名と會飲し、翌二十一日片岡
駿と共に歸京したるが、車中に於て平沼國務相暗殺計畫並に決行當
時の服裝、資金等に付相談したる形跡あり、同日中村武を通じ片岡
より金壹百圓を受領の上翌二十二日一旦歸郷したり。

斯くして七月二十三日より八月二日に至る間郷里に於て同志と屢
々會談し、秘かに今次政行に對する準備を進め、七月二十七日中央
事務局中村武の島根縣松江市より香川縣直島に於ける座談會出席の
途次、同志入澤稔泰、岡田良治等と共に岡山驛に出迎へ、中村武と

同車し、車中に於て密談、宇野驛迄見送り、八月二日午前中津山市辯護士、平沼會々長淀川正充ヲ訪問、平沼大臣の健康祈願の神札の持參並皇風會發會により會旗揮毫方依頼の爲上京すると稱し、淀川より平沼邸速水執事宛紹介狀を貰ひ、同日午後六時三十九分同志土居三郎の見送りを受け津山驛發上京せり。

(ロ)

同志糾合の事實

西山直は豫てより岡山縣まことむすび會々員土居三郎美甘霞、入澤稔泰等に對し親英米、現状維持、上層部の暗殺意圖を打開け、同志釣錫加勸諭東むなり當舊勳は具體的謀略勸諭を定居居ざりしも、七月中旬の政變による平沼國務大臣の留任は平沼勢力の進出なりとなし、目標人物として平沼大臣を第一に挙げ、自ら之を擔當せんとし、決意を爲すに至り入澤、美甘をして擔當せしむべき目標人物は親英米的なる閣僚二、三名とする心組を有し居りたるも、未だ具體的決定に至らず上京を約し單身上京したり。

又土居三郎は西山より參加を懇請せられたるも躊躇したるため西山に於て之を除外したる事實あり。

(ハ)

武器入手の経路

西山直が七月二十一日茨城縣麻生町「まことむすび會」動員大會より歸京の折、中村武に對し決行に使用する武器を短刀か拳銃か何

(二)

れに選定すべきか相談したるが西山は拳銃の入手困難なるを想像し、中村武に對し拳銃入手方を依頼すると共に、同日京橋區銀座菊蔭に於て短刀一振を買ひ、歸郷後同志刀劍研師土居三郎をして右短刀に實用向裝備を施さしむると共に、豫て知り合なる岡山市元明倫會支部長友澤昇を訪問し、拳銃入手に付種々工作したるも果さず短刀を携帯し上京、八月六日中村武に對し拳銃の入手方を依頼し、同九日中村武自宅に於て拳銃入手の上片岡駿方を訪問し、該拳銃の保管方を依頼し、同十二日片岡駿方より着物（決行時着用）及拳銃を受取り、短刀及國民服は中央事務局書生福田博治に供與せり。

尙西山直は當初は武器（拳銃）の出所に付昭和十二年支那事變發生後在滿張宗授こと伊達順之助の體下に入らんとし、渡滿し不採用となり歸國の際、張軍本部にありたる拳銃を無斷持ち歸へりたるものを使用せりと陳述し居りたるが、前敘の如く今回上京後中村武より交付を受けたること略々明かとなれり。

尙決行に使用したる拳銃は一西班牙製デニアン小型六連發自動式拳銃P四〇四六號一なり。

決行上京後の動靜

西山直は國民服を着用し、八月二日津山縣を出發翌三日上京蒲田區蒲田三ノ二七實跡赤島ユキ方に一泊翌四日「まことむすび中央

事務局」を訪問し、同所に落付き同七日中村武、西三千春と共に神田「治作」に於ける南進派の連絡會合に出席し、或は片岡駿、中村武等との會合に日を通し、同月十二日平沼國務相邸速水執事に電話を以て國務大臣に面接方依頼したるに同日午後三時頃來邸せられたしとの旨に同時刻片岡より受取りたる和服を着用し同邸を訪問したるも既に來客中なりし爲明後十四日午前八時來邸せられ度しとの事にて同日は其儘退邸し、翌十三日夕刻「まことむすび中央事務局」より芝區琴平町一朝陽館に投宿したり。

(ホ)

決行當日の狀況

決行當日は午前六時頃起床和服着用の上、豫て用意の拳銃を袴下着物「ポケット」(特に西山の依頼に依り片岡駿妻女の縫ひ付けたるもの)、内に隠し色紙を携行して午前七時過ぎ虎の門より地下鐵に乘車、新橋驛にて省線に乗り替へ、新宿驛下車徒歩にて午前八時過ぎ頃平沼邸に到り揮毫を求むると稱し、應接間に於て大臣に口合し色紙の下より所持せる拳銃にて大臣を狙撃し(六發發砲)現場附近に於て警視廳警戒員に依り檢舉せられたり。

(三)

(イ)

警視廳

本事件捜査上取調中の者

まことむすび中央事務局幹部

天

野

辰

夫

(口)

岡山縣

まことむすび茨城縣麻生地方事務局幹部

小奥西松芥中片
沼戸山田川村岡

正足三嶺治
千

雄百春介郎武殿

岡山縣まことむすび世話人刀劍研師

村役場書記

入美土

國民學校訓導

岡

醫師

西

醬油商

清

無職

山

商業

安

醫師

寺

村役場助役

二

理髮業

尾

崎若尾東口水村田澤甘居

勝尙辰理立敏良稔三

治弘文己吉郎也治泰護郎

元明倫會岡山支部長
 香川縣まことむすび世話人
 本事件關係者中現在迄の所容疑濃厚と認めらるゝ者

便利カマド販賣
 神職 野口 陰柳
 醫師 友澤 辰
 神職 三宅 連昇 己吾

美 入 土 中 片 天
 甘 澤 居 村 岡 野
 三 三 辰
 護 泰 郎 武 殿 夫

(四)

平沼國務相の負傷狀態
 平沼國務大臣の負傷は左顔面、右頸部、左肩胛部に約九個拳銃によ
 るとおぼしき射出入口あり、尙右第二肋骨と肋軟骨との接合部に相當
 せらるゝ部位に擦過傷あり、又舌背中央部及舌相右側に一個宛の銃創
 あり、左犬齒と眼に貫通銃創ある模様にして経過良好なり。

(五)

本事件關係口体「まことむすび會」の同志獲得目標が神職、役場吏